

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 NEA-10 DRC-01 /143 W

----- 065705

R 031050Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9651

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LISBON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CONAKRY 0494

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : PFOR GV

SUBJECT : GUINEAN RADIO COMMENTARY ON POLITICAL EVENTS IN
PORTUGAL

1. RADIO CONAKRY "VOICE OF THE REVOLUTION" CARRIED A REPORT ON MARCH 30 FROM ITS PARIS CORRESPONDENT ANALYZING AND GIVING ALLEGED BACKGROUND TO PUBLICATION OF GENERAL SPINOLA'S BOOK. REPORT ASCRIBED MAJOR ROLE TO U.S. IN THE OUTBREAK OF THE PORTUGUESE POLITICAL CRISES.

2. FOLLOWING BRIEF SUMMARY OF POLITICAL POSITIONS OF PRINCIPAL PORTUGUESE POLITICIANS AND MILITARY LEADERS, REPORT WENT ON TO SAY THAT IN EARLY 1972 US GOVERNMENT ORDERED THE PENTAGON TO STUDY PORTUGUESE COLONIAL POLICY. STUDY CONCLUDED THAT PORTUGAL COULD NOT WIN MILITARY VICTORY IN AFRICAN COLONIES, DESPITE NATO ASSISTANCE AND SOUTH AFRICAN AND RHODESIAN TROOPS, FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. PORTUGUESE TROOPS NO LONGER BELIEVE IN POLITICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL JUSTIFICATIONS FOR WAR;

B. POLICY OF RESETTLEMENT OF EUROPEANS HAS FAILED BECAUSE OF GROWING INSECURITY IN ALL REGIONS;

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C. PORTUGUESE TROOPS ARE DESERTING AND YOUNG PORTUGUESE

ARE FLEEING THE DRAFT AND GOING TO SCANDANAVIAN COUNTRIES;

D. WAR GOING AGAINST PORTUGAL DUE TO BETTER TACTICS ON PART OF LIBERATION MOVEMENT AND GROWING OAU AND OUTSIDE AFRICAN ASSISTANCE;

E. RESOURCES OF ALL PORTUGUESE COLONIES IN AFRICA WILL BE FORFEITED BY THE WEST IF PORTUGAL CONTINUES FIGHT WITH NATO ASSISTANCE.

3. PARIS CORRESPONDENT ASSERTS THAT PENTAGON STUDY WENT ON TO SAY THAT NEW PORTUGUESE POLICY SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED BY A MAN OF INTERNATIONAL STANDING WHO WILL BE ABLE TO RECONCILE CONSERVATIVE PORTUGUESE TO LOSS OF COLONIES. FURTHERMORE, STUDY RECOMMENDED THAT GOOD OFFICES OF AFRICAN LEADERS WITH CLOSE CONTACTS TO THE WEST -- SUCH AS SENGHOR AND HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY -- SHOULD BE USED. PARIS CORRESPONDENT STATED THAT CAETANO WAS INFORMED OF STUDY AND ACCEPTED ESSENTIAL POINTS. SPINOLA AND COSTA GOMES INFORMED BY NATO COUNTERPARTS AND SPINOLA HAD FAVORABLE REACTION TO IT. FAVORABLE REACTION OF SPINOLA, CONVICTION THAT HE COULD PLAY SAME ROLE IN PORTUGAL VIS-A-VIS COLONIES AS DE GAULLE PLAYED IN FRANCE VIS-A-VIS ALGERIA, AND HIS ACCEPTABILITY TO AFRICANS (BASED ON SPINOLA'S CONVERSATIONS WITH SENGHOR AND GUINEA BISSAUANS) CAUSED USG TO CHOOSE HIM. HOWEVER, SPINOLA WANTS TO COME TO POWER LEGALLY.

4. GUINEAN CORRESPONDENT CLAIMED USG COULD NOT PUBLISH STUDY WITHOUT EMBARRASSING THE CAETANO GOVERNMENT WHICH HAD BEEN OF ASSISTANCE DURING OCTOBER ISRAELI-ARAB WAR. CAETANO, ON THE OTHER HAND, COULD NOT MAKE REPORT PUBLIC BECAUSE HE DEPENDED ON PRESIDENT THOMAZ TO REMAIN IN POWER.

5. CORRESPONDENT SPECULATED THAT CONSERVATIVE PORTUGUESE MILITARY LEADERS ONLY BECAME AWARE OF STUDY SHORTLY BEFORE SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT TO PORTUGAL, AND WHEN THEY HEARD OF IT, BELIEVED THAT KISSINGER WOULD ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE IT'S RECOMMENDATIONS. TO PRESENT THIS DEVELOPMENT, MILITARY LEADERS PLANNED TO LIQUIDATE AND OVERTHROW CAETANO, REPLACING HIM WITH ADRIANO COREIRA (PH). SPINOLA, WHO WAS AWARE OF COUP PLOT, THEN PUBLISHED HIS BOOK SETTING OFF CRISIS. COMMENTARY ADDS THAT SPINOLA BOOK IS BASED LARGELY ON PENTAGON STUDY. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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6. RADIO REPORT WENT ON TO SAY THAT CAPTAIN ABOU SOUMAH, A GUINEAN OPPONENT OF TOURE'S REGIME, WENT CLANDESTINELY TO LISBON AND URGED PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES TO DESTROY PAIGC SANCTUARIES IN REPUBLIC OF GUINEA "IN THE INTEREST OF PORTUGAL AND THE SUFFERING POPULATION OF GUINEA." FOLLOWING THIS VISIT BY SOUMAH, PORTUGUESE HAVE FLOWN FRESH TROOPS TO GUINEA BISSAU IN ORDER TO REASSERT THEIR AUTHORITY AND OVERTHROW

PAIGC GOVERNMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLONIALISM, ARMED FORCES, RADIO BROADCASTING, BOOKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CONAKR00494
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740074-0951
From: CONAKRY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740471/aaaacnkl.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <01 AUG 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : GUINEAN RADIO COMMENTARY ON POLITICAL EVENTS IN PORTUGAL
TAGS: PFOR, GV, (SPINOLA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005